



November 14, 2005

Marlene H. Dortch
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
455 12th St. SW, Room TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554

**In the Matter of: Nomination for Universal Service Administrator's Board of Directors,
CC Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45.**

Dear Secretary Dortch:

The Western Telecommunications Alliance ("WTA") unanimously supports the nomination by Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative, Inc. ("BTC") of Jason B. Williams to serve on the Universal Service Administrative Company's ("USAC") Board of Directors to represent ILECs with annual reporting revenues of \$40 million or less.

Mr. Williams currently works for the law firm of Christian, Samson, Jones and Chisholm, PLLC, where he focuses on rural telecommunications issues, and serves as outside counsel for WTA. Mr. Williams graduated with honors from the University of Montana School of Law and completed his undergraduate work at the University of Notre Dame. During his time at the U of M School of Law, Mr. Williams interned for BTC where he assisted the company's general counsel with a wide variety of legal and regulatory matters. In addition, he served as Special Assistant to FCC Commissioner Kevin J. Martin in Washington, DC where he advised the Commissioner on a variety of wireline, wireless and media issues. Previously, he worked as Manager of Regulatory Affairs for XO Communications (formerly Nextlink Communications) where he focused on the company's regulatory policy. Mr. Williams also worked as a Business Development Manager for NeuStar, Inc.

WTA strongly believes that Mr. Williams's will provide significant legal, regulatory, public policy, operational experience, and provide an active small-ILEC presence with a strong sense of rural commitment at USAC. WTA strongly encourages the appointment of Mr. Williams to the USAC Board of Directors. If you have any questions, please contact me at (406) 433-6377.

Sincerely,

Kelly Worthington
Executive Vice President

Western Telecommunications Alliance
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